



Docket No.: 65426(47992)
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Pradman QASBA

Application No.: 10/581,942

Confirmation No.: 7990

Filed: April 23, 2007

Art Unit: 1652

For: CATALYTIC DOMAINS OF BETA (1,4)-
GALACTOSYLTRANSFERASE I HAVING
ALTERED METAL ION SPECIFICITY

Examiner: CHOWDHURY, I.H.

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicant is in receipt of the Office Action dated June 22, 2009. The Examiner has required Restriction under 35 USC 121 and 372.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Restriction Requirement. In particular, it is believed that multiple groups can be searched and examined together without undue burden.

In particular, Applicants request that the Examiner consider that considerable time and expense will be saved Group I (claims 1 – 7, 15, 22, 28 and 48) and Group II (claims 8 – 12) are considered at this time, rather than pursuing multiple divisional applications.

The present invention is based on the surprising discovery that the metal specificity of a beta (1,4)-galactosyltransferase can be altered through

mutation that allows the enzyme to utilize magnesium as a cofactor during the catalytic process instead of manganese, and this alteration allows the mutated enzyme to catalyze the transfer of a sugar from a donor to an acceptor through formation of a beta (1,4) linkage (e.g. galactose-beta (1,4) N-acetylglucosamine or glucose-beta (1,4)-N-acetylgalactosamine) in the presence of magnesium.

Accordingly, reconsideration of the Restriction to consider the catalytic domains from beta (1,4)-galactosyltransferase I of Group I and II, regardless of the beta (1,4) linkage that is formed, is earnestly solicited.

In any event, to provide a complete response, Applicant hereby elects group I (claims 1 – 7, 15, 22, 28 and 48), as that Group is defined in the Office Action.

Early consideration and allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Dated: August 24, 2009

Respectfully submitted,


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